with increasing distance or dilution within the different pathways.

• Sum the values for the three levels.

In addition, resource value points are assigned within all pathways for welfare-related impacts (for example, impacts to agricultural land), but do not depend on whether there is actual or potential contamination.

2.5.1 *Determination of level of actual contamination at a sampling location.* Determine whether Level I concentrations or Level II concentrations apply at a sampling location (and thus to the associated targets) as follows:

• Select the benchmarks applicable to the pathway (or threat) being evaluated.

• Compare the concentrations of hazardous substances in the sample (or comparable samples) to their benchmark concentrations for the pathway (or threat), as specified in section 2.5.2.

• Determine which level applies based on this comparison.

• If none of the hazardous substances eligible to be evaluated for the sampling location has an applicable benchmark, assign Level II to the actual contamination at that sampling location for the pathway (or threat).

In making the comparison, consider only those samples, and only those hazardous substances in the sample, that meet the criteria for an observed release (or observed contamination) for the pathway, except: tissue samples from aquatic human food chain organisms may also be used as specified in sections 4.1.3.3 and 4.2.3.3 of the surface water-human food chain threat. If any hazardous substance is present in more than one comparable sample for the sampling location, use the highest concentration of that hazardous substance from any of the comparable samples in making the comparisons.

Treat sets of samples that are not comparable separately and make a separate comparison for each such set.

2.5.2 *Comparison to benchmarks.* Use the following media-specific benchmarks for making the comparisons for the indicated pathway (or threat):

• Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs)—ground water migration pathway and drinking water threat in surface water migration pathway. Use only MCLG values greater than 0.

• Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)—ground water migration pathway and drinking water threat in surface water migration pathway.

• Food and Drug Administration Action Level (FDAAL) for fish or shellfish—human food chain threat in surface water migration pathway.

• EPA Ambient Water Quality Criteria (AWQC) for protection of aquatic life—environmental threat in surface water migration pathway.

• EPA Ambient Aquatic Life Advisory Concentrations (AALAC)—environmental threat in surface water migration pathway.

• National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)—air migration pathway.

• National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs)—air migration pathway. Use only those NESHAPs promulgated in ambient concentration units.

• Screening concentration for cancer corresponding to that concentration that corresponds to the 10^{-6} individual cancer risk for inhalation exposures (air migration pathway) or for oral exposures (ground water migration pathway; drinking water and human food chain threats in surface water migration pathway; and soil exposure pathway).

• Screening concentration for noncancer toxicological responses corresponding to the RfD for inhalation exposures (air migration pathway) or for oral exposures (ground water migration pathway; drinking water and human food chain threats in surface water migration pathway; and soil exposure pathway).

Select the benchmark(s) applicable to the pathway (or threat) being evaluated as specified in sections 3 through 6. Compare the concentration of each hazardous substance from the sampling location to its benchmark concentration(s) for that pathway (or threat). Use only those samples and only those hazardous substances in the sample that meet the criteria for an observed release (or observed contamination) for the pathway, except: tissue samples from aquatic human food chain organisms may be used as specified in sections 4.1.3.3 and 4.2.3.3. If the concentration of any applicable hazardous substance from any sample equals or exceeds its benchmark concentration, consider the sampling location to be subject to Level I concentrations for that pathway (or threat). If more than one benchmark applies to the hazardous substance, assign Level I if the concentration of the hazardous substance equals or exceeds the lowest applicable benchmark concentration.

If no hazardous substance individually equals or exceeds its benchmark concentration, but more than one hazardous substance either meets the criteria for an observed release (or observed contamination) for the sample (or comparable samples) or is eligible to be evaluated for a tissue sample (see sections 4.1.3.3 and 4.2.3.3), calculate the indices I and J specified below based on these hazardous substances.

For those hazardous substances that are carcinogens (that is, those having a carcinogen weight-of-evidence classification of A, B, or C), calculate an index I for the sample location as follows:

$$I = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{C_i}{SC_i}$$

where:

C_i = Concentration of hazardous substance i in sample (or highest concentration of hazardous substance i from among comparable samples).

SC_i = Screening concentration for cancer corresponding to that concentration that corresponds to its 10^{-6} individual cancer risk for applicable exposure (inhalation or oral) for hazardous substance i.

n = Number of applicable hazardous substances in sample (or comparable samples) that are carcinogens and for which an SC_i is available.

For those hazardous substances for which an RfD is available, calculate an index J for the sample location as follows:

$$J = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{C_j}{CR_j}$$

where:

C_j = Concentration of hazardous substance j in sample (or highest concentration of hazardous substance j from among comparable samples).

CR_j = Screening concentration for noncancer toxicological responses corresponding to RfD for applicable exposure (inhalation or oral) for hazardous substance j.

m = Number of applicable hazardous substances in sample (or comparable samples) for which a CR_j is available.

If either I or J equals or exceeds 1, consider the sampling location to be subject to Level I concentrations for that pathway (or threat). If both I and J are less than 1, consider the sampling location to be subject to Level II concentrations for that pathway (or threat). If, for the sampling location, there are sets of samples that are not comparable, calculate I and J separately for each such set, and use the highest calculated values of I and J to assign Level I and Level II.

See sections 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 for criteria for determining the level of contamination for radioactive substances.

3.0 Ground Water Migration Pathway

Evaluate the ground water migration pathway based on three factor categories: likelihood of release, waste characteristics, and targets. Figure 3–1 indicates the factors included within each factor category.

Determine the ground water migration pathway score (S_{gw}) in terms of the factor category values as follows:

$$S_{gw} = \frac{(LR)\,(WC)\,(T)}{SF}$$

where:

LR = Likelihood of release factor category value.

WC = Waste characteristics factor category value.

T = Targets factor category value.

SF = Scaling factor.

Table 3–1 outlines the specific calculation procedure.

Calculate a separate ground water migration pathway score for each aquifer, using the factor category values for that aquifer for likelihood of release, waste characteristics, and targets. In doing so, include both the targets using water from that aquifer and the targets using water from all overlying aquifers through which the hazardous substances would migrate to reach the aquifer being evaluated. Assign the highest ground water migration pathway score that results for any aquifer as the ground water migration pathway score for the site.

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Likelihood of Release (LR)

Observed Release

or

Potential to Release
- Containment
- Net Precipitation
- Depth to Aquifer
- Travel Time

X

Waste Characteristics (WC)

Toxicity/Mobility
- Toxicity
  - Chronic
  - Carcinogenic
  - Acute
- Mobility
  - Water Solubility
  - Distribution Coefficient (K_d)

Hazardous Waste Quantity
- Hazardous Constituent Quantity
- Hazardous Wastestream Quantity
- Volume
- Area

X

Targets (T)

Nearest Well

Population
- Level I Concentrations
- Level II Concentrations
- Potential Contamination

Resources

Wellhead Protection Area

FIGURE 3-1
OVERVIEW OF GROUND WATER MIGRATION PATHWAY

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TABLE 3-1.—GROUND WATER MIGRATION PATHWAY SCORESHEET

Factor categories and factors	Maximum value	Value assigned
Likelihood of Release to an Aquifer:		
1. Observed Release	550	___
2. Potential to Release:		
2a. Containment	10	___
2b. Net Precipitation	10	___
2c. Depth to Aquifer	5	___
2d. Travel Time	35	___
2e. Potential to Release [lines 2a(2b+2c+2d)]	500	___
3. Likelihood of Release (higher of lines 1 and 2e)	550	___
Waste Characteristics:		
4. Toxicity/Mobility	(a)	___
5. Hazardous Waste Quantity	(a)	___
6. Waste Characteristics	100	___
Targets:		
7. Nearest Well	50	___
8. Population:		
8a. Level I Concentrations	(b)	___
8b. Level II Concentrations	(b)	___
8c. Potential Contamination	(b)	___
8d. Population (lines 8a+8b+8c)	(b)	___
9. Resources	5	___
10. Wellhead Protection Area	20	___
11. Targets (lines 7+8d+9+10)	(b)	___
Ground Water Migration Score for an Aquifer:		
12. Aquifer Score [(lines 3 x 6 x 11)/82,500] [c]	100	___
Ground Water Migration Pathway Score:		
13. Pathway Score (S_{gw}), (highest value from line 12 for all aquifers evaluated)[c]	100	___

[a] Maximum value applies to waste characteristics category.
[b] Maximum value not applicable.
[c] Do not round to nearest integer.

3.0.1 *General considerations*

3.0.1.1 *Ground water target distance limit.* The target distance limit defines the maximum distance from the sources at the site over which targets are evaluated. Use a target distance limit of 4 miles for the ground water migration pathway, except when aquifer discontinuities apply (see section 3.0.1.2.2). Furthermore, consider any well with an observed release from a source at the site (see section 3.1.1) to lie within the target distance limit of the site, regardless of the well's distance from the sources at the site.

For sites that consist solely of a contaminated ground water plume with no identified source, begin measuring the 4-mile target distance limit at the center of the area of observed ground water contamination. Determine the area of observed ground water contamination based on available samples that meet the criteria for an observed release.

3.0.1.2 *Aquifer boundaries.* Combine multiple aquifers into a single hydrologic unit for scoring purposes if aquifer interconnections can be established for these aquifers. In contrast, restrict aquifer boundaries if aquifer discontinuities can be established.

3.0.1.2.1 *Aquifer interconnections.* Evaluate whether aquifer interconnections occur within 2 miles of the sources at the site. If they occur within this 2-mile distance, combine the aquifers having interconnections in scoring the site. In addition, if observed ground water contamination attributable to the sources at the site extends beyond 2 miles from the sources, use any locations within the limits of this observed ground water contamination in evaluating aquifer interconnections. If data are not adequate to establish aquifer interconnections, evaluate the aquifers as separate aquifers.

3.0.1.2.2 *Aquifer discontinuities.* Evaluate whether aquifer discontinuities occur within the 4-mile target distance limit. An aquifer discontinuity occurs for scoring purposes only when a geologic, topographic, or other structure or feature entirely transects an aquifer within the 4-mile target distance limit, thereby creating a continuous boundary to ground water flow within this limit. If two or more aquifers can be combined into a single hydrologic unit for scoring purposes, an aquifer discontinuity occurs only when the structure or feature entirely transects the boundaries of this single hydrologic unit.

When an aquifer discontinuity is established within the 4-mile target distance limit, exclude that portion of the aquifer beyond the discontinuity in evaluating the ground water migration pathway. However, if hazardous substances have migrated across an apparent discontinuity within the 4-mile target distance limit, do not consider this to be a discontinuity in scoring the site.

3.0.1.3 *Karst aquifer.* Give a karst aquifer that underlies any portion of the sources at the site special consideration in the evaluation of two potential to release factors (depth to aquifer in section 3.1.2.3 and travel time in section 3.1.2.4), one waste characteristics factor (mobility in section 3.2.1.2), and two targets factors (nearest well in section 3.3.1 and potential contamination in section 3.3.2.4).

3.1 *Likelihood of release.* For an aquifer, evaluate the likelihood of release factor category in terms of an observed release factor or a potential to release factor.

3.1.1 *Observed release.* Establish an observed release to an aquifer by demonstrating that the site has released a hazardous substance to the aquifer. Base this demonstration on either:

- Direct observation—a material that contains one or more hazardous substances has been deposited into or has been observed entering the aquifer.
- Chemical analysis—an analysis of ground water samples from the aquifer indicates that the concentration of hazardous substance(s) has increased significantly above the background concentration for the site (see section 2.3). Some portion of the significant increase must be attributable to the site to establish the observed release, except: when the source itself consists of a ground water plume with no identified source, no separate attribution is required.

If an observed release can be established for the aquifer, assign the aquifer an observed release factor value of 550, enter this value in Table 3-1, and proceed to section 3.1.3. If an observed release cannot be established for the aquifer, assign an observed release factor value of 0, enter this value in Table 3-1, and proceed to section 3.1.2.

3.1.2 *Potential to release.* Evaluate potential to release only if an observed release cannot be established for the aquifer. Evaluate potential to release based on four factors: containment, net precipitation, depth to aquifer, and travel time. For sources overlying karst terrain, give any karst aquifer that underlies any portion of the sources at the site special consideration in evaluating depth to aquifer and travel time, as specified in sections 3.1.2.3 and 3.1.2.4.

3.1.2.1 *Containment.* Assign a containment factor value from Table 3-2 to each source at the site. Select the highest containment factor value assigned to those sources with a source hazardous waste quantity value of 0.5 or more (see section

2.4.2.1.5). (Do not include this minimum size requirement in evaluating any other factor of this pathway.) Assign this highest value as the containment factor value for the aquifer being evaluated. Enter this value in Table 3-1.

If no source at the site meets the minimum size requirement, then select the highest value assigned to the sources at the site and assign it as the containment factor value for the aquifer being evaluated. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

3.1.2.2 *Net precipitation.* Assign a net precipitation factor value to the site. Figure 3–2 provides computed net precipitation factor values, based on site location. Where necessary, determine the net precipitation factor value as follows:

• Determine monthly precipitation and monthly evapotranspiration:
  –Use local measured monthly averages.
  –When local data are not available, use monthly averages from the nearest National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration weather station that is in a similar geographic setting.

TABLE 3–2.—CONTAINMENT FACTOR VALUES FOR GROUND WATER MIGRATION PATHWAY

Source	Assigned value
All Sources (Except Surface Impoundments, Land Treatment, Containers, and Tanks)	
Evidence of hazardous substance migration from source area (i.e., source area includes source and any associated containment structures).	10
No liner	10
No evidence of hazardous substance migration from source area, a liner, *and*:	
(a) None of the following present: (1) maintained engineered cover, or (2) functioning and maintained run-on control system and runoff management system, or (3) functioning leachate collection and removal system immediately above liner.	10
(b) Any one of the three items in (a) present	9
(c) Any two of the items in (a) present	7
(d) All three items in (a) present plus a functioning ground water monitoring system	5
(e) All items in (d) present, plus no bulk or non-containerized liquids nor materials containing free liquids deposited in source area.	3
No evidence of hazardous substance migration from source area, double liner with functioning leachate collection and removal system above and between liners, functioning ground water monitoring system, *and*:	
(f) Only one of the following deficiencies present in containment: (1) bulk or noncontainerized liquids or materials containing free liquids deposited in source area, or (2) no or nonfunctioning or nonmaintained run-on control system and runoff management system, or (3) no or nonmaintained engineered cover.	3
(g) None of the deficiencies in (f) present	0
Source area inside or under maintained intact structure that provides protection from precipitation so that neither runoff nor leachate is generated, liquids or materials containing free liquids not deposited in source area, and functioning and maintained run-on control present.	0
Surface Impoundment	
Evidence of hazardous substance migration from surface impoundment	10
No liner	10
Free-liquids present with either no diking, unsound diking, or diking that is not regularly inspected and maintained	10
No evidence of hazardous substance migration from surface impoundment, free liquids present, sound diking that is regularly inspected and maintained, adequate freeboard, *and*:	
(a) Liner	9
(b) Liner with functioning leachate collection and removal system below liner, and functioning ground water monitoring system.	5
(c) Double liner with functioning leachate collection and removal system between liners, and functioning ground water monitoring system.	3
No evidence of hazardous substance migration from surface impoundment and all free liquids eliminated at closure (either by removal of liquids or solidification of remaining wastes and waste residues).	Evaluate using **All sources** criteria (with no bulk or free liquid deposited).
Land Treatment	
Evidence of hazardous substance migration from land treatment zone	10
No functioning, maintained, run-on control and runoff management system	10
No evidence of hazardous substance migration from land treatment zone *and*:	
(a) Functioning and maintained run-on control and runoff management system	7
(b) Functioning and maintained run-on control and runoff management system, and vegetative cover established over entire land treatment area.	5
(c) Land treatment area maintained in compliance with 40 CFR 264.280	0

TABLE 3-2.—CONTAINMENT FACTOR VALUES FOR GROUND WATER MIGRATION PATHWAY—Continued

Source	Assigned value
Containers	
All containers buried	Evaluate using **All sources** criteria.
Evidence of hazardous substance migration from container area (i.e., container area includes containers and any associated containment structures).	10
No liner (or no essentially impervious base) under container area	10
No diking (or no similar structure) surrounding container area	10
Diking surrounding container area unsound or not regularly inspected and maintained	10
No evidence of hazardous substance migration from container area, container area surrounded by sound diking that is regularly inspected and maintained, *and*:	
(a) Liner (or essentially impervious base) under container area	9
(b) Essentially impervious base under container area with liquids collection and removal system	7
(c) Containment system includes essentially impervious base, liquids collection system, sufficient capacity to contain 10 percent of volume of all containers, and functioning and maintained run-on control; plus functioning ground water monitoring system, and spilled or leaked hazardous substances and accumulated precipitation removed in timely manner to prevent overflow of collection system, at least weekly inspection of containers, hazardous substances in leaking or deteriorating containers transferred to containers in good condition, and containers sealed except when waste is added or removed.	5
(d) Free liquids present, containment system has sufficient capacity to hold total volume of all containers and to provide adequate freeboard, single liner under container area with functioning leachate collection and removal system below liner, and functioning ground water monitoring system.	5
(e) Same as (d) except: double liner under container area with functioning leachate collection and removal system between liners.	3
Containers inside or under maintained intact structure that provides protection from precipitation so that neither runoff nor leachate would be generated from any unsealed or ruptured containers, liquids or materials containing free liquids not deposited in any container, and functioning and maintained run-off control present.	0
No evidence of hazardous substance migration from container area, containers leaking, and all free liquids eliminated at closure (either by removal of liquid or solidification of remaining wastes and waste residues).	Evaluate using **All sources** criteria (with no bulk or free liquid deposited).
Tank	
Below-ground tank	Evaluate using **All sources** criteria.
Evidence of hazardous substance migration from tank area (i.e., tank area includes tank, ancillary equipment such as piping, and any associated containment structures).	10
Tank and ancillary equipment not provided with secondary containment (e.g., liner under tank area, vault system, double wall).	10
No diking (or no similar structure) surrounding tank and ancillary equipment	10
Diking surrounding tank and ancillary equipment unsound or not regularly inspected and maintained	10
No evidence of hazardous substance migration from tank area, tank and ancillary equipment surrounded by sound diking that is regularly inspected and maintained, *and*:	
(a) Tank and ancillary equipment provided with secondary containment	9
(b) Tank and ancillary equipment provided with secondary containment with leak detection and collection system.	7
(c) Tank and ancillary equipment provided with secondary containment system that detects and collects spilled or leaked hazardous substances and accumulated precipitation and has sufficient capacity to contain 110 percent of volume of largest tank within containment area, spilled or leaked hazardous substances and accumulated precipitation removed in timely manner, at least weekly inspection of tank and secondary containment system, all leaking or unfit-for-use tank systems promptly responded to, and functioning ground water monitoring system.	5
(d) Containment system has sufficient capacity to hold volume of all tanks within tank containment area and to provide adequate freeboard, single liner under that containment area with functioning leachate collection and removal system below liner, and functioning ground water monitoring system.	5
(e) Same as (d) except: double liner under tank containment area with functioning leachate collection and removal system between liners.	3
Tank is above ground, and inside or under maintained intact structure that provides protection from precipitation so that neither runoff nor leachate would be generated from any material released from tank, liquids or materials containing free liquids not deposited in any tank, and functioning and maintained run-on control present.	0

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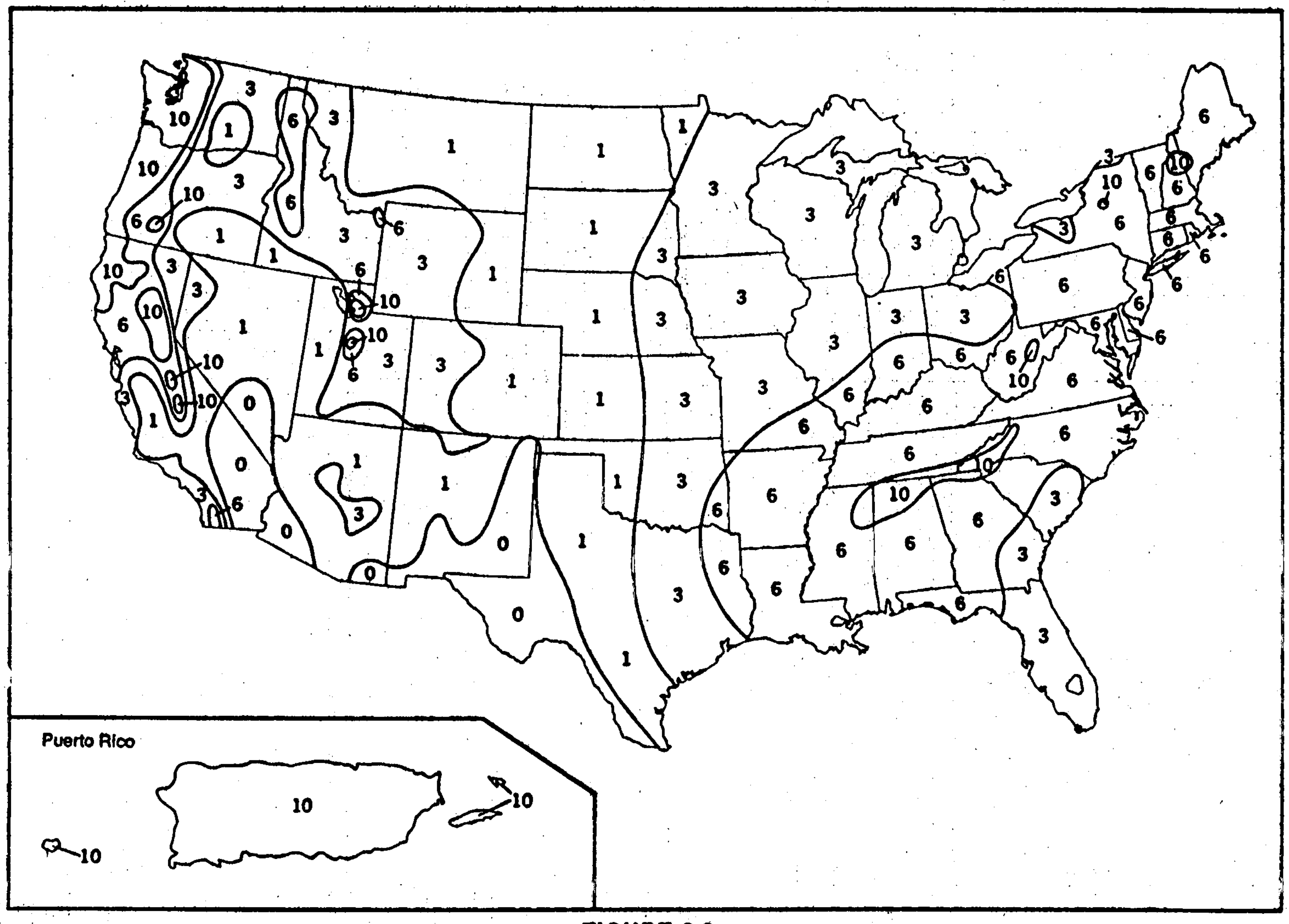

FIGURE 3-2
NET PRECIPITATION FACTOR VALUES

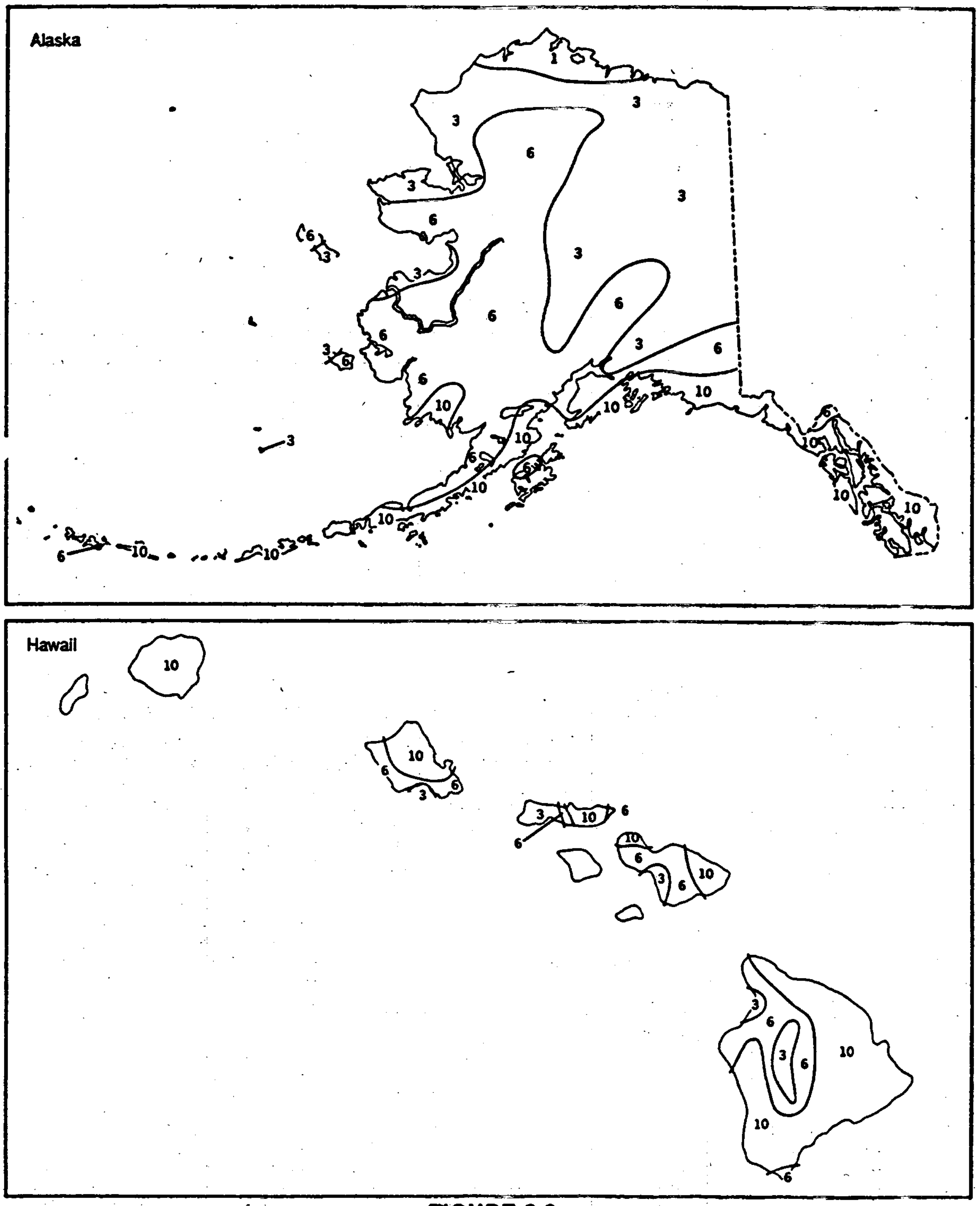

FIGURE 3-2
NET PRECIPITATION FACTOR VALUES
(CONCLUDED)

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–When measured monthly evapotranspiration is not available, calculate monthly potential evapotranspiration (E_i) as follows:

$$E_i = 0.6\, F_i\, (10\, T_i/I)^a$$

where:

E_i=Monthly potential evapotranspiration (inches) for month i.

F_i=Monthly latitude adjusting value for month i.

T_i=Mean monthly temperature (°C) for month i.

$$I = \sum_{i=1}^{12} (T_i/5)^{1.514}$$

$$a = 6.75\times10^{-7} I^3 - 7.71\times10^{-5} I^2 + 1.79\times10^{-2} I + 0.49239$$

Select the latitude adjusting value for each month from Table 3-3. For latitudes lower than 50° North or 20° South, determine the monthly latitude adjusting value by interpolation.

• Calculate monthly net precipitation by subtracting monthly evapotranspiration (or monthly potential evapotranspiration) from monthly precipitation. If evapotranspiration (or potential evapotranspiration) exceeds precipitation for a month, assign that month a net precipitation value of 0.

• Calculate the annual net precipitation by summing the monthly net precipitation values.

• Based on the annual net precipitation, assign a net precipitation factor value from Table 3-4.

Enter the value assigned from Figure 3-2 or from Table 3-4, as appropriate, in Table 3-1.

TABLE 3-3.—MONTHLY LATITUDE ADJUSTING VALUES[a]

Latitude[b] (degrees)	Month											
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
≥50 N	0.74	0.78	1.02	1.15	1.33	1.36	1.37	1.25	1.06	0.92	0.76	0.70
45 N	0.80	0.81	1.02	1.13	1.28	1.29	1.31	1.21	1.04	0.94	0.79	0.75
40 N	0.84	0.83	1.03	1.11	1.24	1.25	1.27	1.18	1.04	0.96	0.83	0.81
35 N	0.87	0.85	1.03	1.09	1.21	1.21	1.23	1.16	1.03	0.97	0.89	0.85
30 N	0.90	0.87	1.03	1.08	1.18	1.17	1.20	1.14	1.03	0.98	0.89	0.88
20 N	0.95	0.90	1.03	1.05	1.13	1.11	1.14	1.11	1.02	1.00	0.93	0.94
10 N	1.00	0.91	1.03	1.03	1.08	1.06	1.08	1.07	1.02	1.02	0.98	0.99
0	1.04	0.94	1.04	1.01	1.04	1.01	1.04	1.04	1.01	1.04	1.01	1.04
10 S	1.08	0.97	1.05	0.99	1.00	0.96	1.00	1.02	1.00	1.06	1.05	1.09
20 S	1.14	0.99	1.05	0.97	0.96	0.91	0.95	0.99	1.00	1.08	1.09	1.15

[a] Do not round to nearest integer.
[b] For unlisted latitudes lower than 50° North or 20° South, determine the latitude adjusting value by interpolation.

TABLE 3-4.—NET PRECIPITATION FACTOR VALUES

Net precipitation (inches)	Assigned value
0	0
Greater than 0 to 5	1
Greater than 5 to 15	3
Greater than 15 to 30	6
Greater than 30	10

3.1.2.3 *Depth to aquifer.* Evaluate depth to aquifer by determining the depth from the lowest known point of hazardous substances at a site to the top of the aquifer being evaluated, considering all layers in that interval. Measure the depth to an aquifer as the distance from the surface to the top of the aquifer minus the distance from the surface to the lowest known point of hazardous substances eligible to be evaluated for that aquifer. In evaluating depth to aquifer in karst terrain, assign a thickness of 0 feet to a karst aquifer that underlies any portion of the sources at the site. Based on the calculated depth, assign a value from Table 3-5 to the depth to aquifer factor.

Determine the depth to aquifer only at locations within 2 miles of the sources at the site, except: if observed ground water contamination attributable to sources at the site extends more than 2 miles beyond these sources, use any location within the limits of this observed ground water contamination when evaluating the depth to aquifer factor for any aquifer that does not have an observed release. If the necessary geologic information is available at multiple locations, calculate the depth to aquifer at each location. Use the location having the smallest depth to assign the factor value. Enter this value in Table 3-1.

TABLE 3-5.—DEPTH TO AQUIFER FACTOR VALUES

Depth to aquifer[a] (feet)	Assigned value
Less than or equal to 25	5
Greater than 25 to 250	3
Greater than 250	1

[a] Use depth of all layers between the hazardous substances and aquifer. Assign a thickness of 0 feet to any karst aquifer that underlies any portion of the sources at the site.

3.1.2.4 *Travel time.* Evaluate the travel time factor based on the geologic materials in the interval between the lowest known point of hazardous substances at the site and the top of the aquifer being evaluated. Assign a value to the travel time factor as follows:

• If the depth to aquifer (see section 3.1.2.3) is 10 feet or less, assign a value of 35.

• If, for the interval being evaluated, all layers that underlie a portion of the sources at the site are karst, assign a value of 35.

• Otherwise:

–Select the lowest hydraulic conductivity layer(s) from within the above interval. Consider only layers at least 3 feet thick. However, do not consider layers or portions of layers within the first 10 feet of the depth to the aquifer.

–Determine hydraulic conductivities for individual layers from Table 3-6 or from in-situ or laboratory tests. Use representative, measured, hydraulic conductivity values whenever available.

–If more than one layer has the same lowest hydraulic conductivity, include all such layers and sum their thicknesses. Assign a thickness of 0 feet to a karst layer that underlies any portion of the sources at the site.

–Assign a value from Table 3-7 to the travel time factor, based on the thickness and hydraulic conductivity of the lowest hydraulic conductivity layer(s).

TABLE 3-6.—HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY OF GEOLOGIC MATERIALS

Type of material	Assigned hydraulic conductivity[a] (cm/sec)
Clay; low permeability till (compact unfractured till); shale; unfractured metamorphic and igneous rocks	10^{-8}
Silt; loesses; silty clays; sediments that are predominantly silts; moderately permeable till (fine-grained, unconsolidated till, or compact till with some fractures); low permeability limestones and dolomites (no karst); low permeability sandstone; low permeability fractured igneous and metamorphic rocks	10^{-6}
Sands; sandy silts; sediments that are predominantly sand; highly permeable till (coarse-grained, unconsolidated or compact and highly fractured); peat; moderately permeable limestones and dolomites (no karst); moderately permeable sandstone; moderately permeable fractured igneous and metamorphic rocks	10^{-4}
Gravel; clean sand; highly permeable fractured igneous and metamorphic rocks; permeable basalt; karst limestones and dolomites	10^{-2}

[a] Do not round to nearest integer.

TABLE 3-7.—TRAVEL TIME FACTOR VALUES[a]

Hydraulic conductivity (cm/sec)	Thickness of lowest hydraulic conductivity layer(s)[b] (feet)			
	Greater than 3 to 5	Greater than 5 to 100	Greater than 100 to 500	Greater than 500
Greater than or equal to 10^{-3}	35	35	35	25
Less than 10^{-3} to 10^{-5}	35	25	15	15
Less than 10^{-5} to 10^{-7}	15	15	5	5
Less than 10^{-7}	5	5	1	1

[a] If depth to aquifer is 10 feet or less or if, for the interval being evaluated, all layers that underlie a portion of the sources at the site are karst, assign a value of 35.

[b] Consider only layers at least 3 feet thick. Do not consider layers or portions of layers within the first 10 feet of the depth to the aquifer.

Determine travel time only at locations within 2 miles of the sources at the site, except: if observed ground water contamination attributable to sources at the site extends more than 2 miles beyond these sources, use any location within the limits of this observed ground water contamination when evaluating the travel time factor for any aquifer that does not have an observed release. If the necessary subsurface geologic information is available at multiple locations, evaluate the travel time factor at each location. Use the location having the highest travel time factor value to assign the factor value for the aquifer. Enter this value in Table 3-1.

3.1.2.5 *Calculation of potential to release factor value.* Sum the factor values for net precipitation, depth to aquifer, and travel time, and multiply this sum by the factor value for containment. Assign this product as the potential to release factor value for the aquifer. Enter this value in Table 3-1.

3.1.3 *Calculation of likelihood of release factor category value.* If an observed release is established for an aquifer, assign the observed release factor value of 550 as the likelihood of release factor category value for that aquifer. Otherwise, assign the potential to release factor value for that aquifer as the likelihood of release value. Enter the value assigned in Table 3-1.

3.2 *Waste characteristics.* Evaluate the waste characteristics factor category for an aquifer based on two factors: toxicity/mobility and hazardous waste quantity. Evaluate only those hazardous substances available to migrate from the sources at the site to ground water. Such hazardous substances include:

- Hazardous substances that meet the criteria for an observed release to ground water.
- All hazardous substances associated with a source that has a ground water containment factor value greater than 0 (see sections 2.2.2, 2.2.3, and 3.1.2.1).

3.2.1 *Toxicity/mobility.* For each hazardous substance, assign a toxicity factor value, a mobility factor value, and a combined toxicity/mobility factor value as specified in the following sections. Select the toxicity/mobility factor value for the aquifer being evaluated as specified in section 3.2.1.3.

3.2.1.1 *Toxicity.* Assign a toxicity factor value to each hazardous substance as specified in Section 2.4.1.1.

3.2.1.2 *Mobility.* Assign a mobility factor value to each hazardous substance for the aquifer being evaluated as follows:

- For any hazardous substance that meets the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis to one or more aquifers underlying the sources at the site, regardless of the aquifer being evaluated, assign a mobility factor value of 1.
- For any hazardous substance that does not meet the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis to at least one of the aquifers, assign that hazardous substance a mobility factor value from Table 3-8 for the aquifer being evaluated, based on its water solubility and distribution coefficient (K_d).
- If the hazardous substance cannot be assigned a mobility factor value because data on its water solubility or distribution coefficient are not available, use other hazardous substances for which information is available in evaluating the pathway.

TABLE 3-8.—GROUND WATER MOBILITY FACTOR VALUES[a]

Water solubility (mg/l)	Distribution coefficient (K_d) (ml/g)			
	Karst[c]	≤10	>10 to 1,000	>1,000
Present as liquid[b]	1	1	0.01	0.0001
Greater than 100	1	1	0.01	0.0001
Greater than 1 to 100	0.2	0.2	0.002	2×10^{-5}
Greater than 0.01 to 1	0.002	0.002	2×10^{-5}	2×10^{-7}
Less than or equal to 0.01	2×10^{-5}	2×10^{-5}	2×10^{-7}	2×10^{-9}

[a] Do not round to nearest integer.

[b] Use if the hazardous substance is present or deposited as a liquid.

[c] Use if the entire interval from the source to the aquifer being evaluated is karst.

• If none of the hazardous substances eligible to be evaluated can be assigned a mobility factor value, use a default value of 0.002 as the mobility factor value for all these hazardous substances.

Determine the water solubility to be used in Table 3–8 for the hazardous substance as follows (use this same water solubility for all aquifers):

• For any hazardous substance that does not meet the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis, if the hazardous substance is present or deposited as a liquid, use the water solubility category "Present as Liquid" in Table 3–8 to assign the mobility factor value to that hazardous substance.

• Otherwise:

–For any hazardous substance that is a metal (or metalloid) and that does not meet the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis, establish a water solubility for the hazardous substance as follows:

– –Determine the overall range of water solubilities for compounds of this hazardous substance (consider all compounds for which adequate water solubility information is available, not just compounds identified as present at the site).

– –Calculate the geometric mean of the highest and the lowest water solubility in this range.

– –Use this geometric mean as the water solubility in assigning the hazardous substance a mobility factor value from Table 3–8.

–For any other hazardous substance (either organic or inorganic) that does not meet the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis, use the water solubility of that hazardous substance to assign a mobility factor value from Table 3–8 to the hazardous substance.

For the aquifer being evaluated, determine the distribution coefficient to be used in Table 3–8 for the hazardous substance as follows:

• For any hazardous substance that does not meet the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis, if the entire interval from a source at the site to the aquifer being evaluated is karst, use the distribution coefficient category "Karst" in Table 3–8 in assigning the mobility factor value for that hazardous substance for that aquifer.

• Otherwise:

–For any hazardous substance that is a metal (or metalloid) and that does not meet the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis, use the distribution coefficient for the metal or (metalloid) to assign a mobility factor value from Table 3–8 for that hazardous substance.

–For any other inorganic hazardous substance that does not meet the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis, use the distribution coefficient for that inorganic hazardous substance, if available, to assign a mobility factor value from Table 3–8. If the distribution coefficient is not available, use a default value of "less than 10" as the distribution coefficient, except: for asbestos use a default value of "greater than 1,000" as the distribution coefficient.

–For any hazardous substance that is organic and that does not meet the criteria for an observed release by chemical analysis, establish a distribution coefficient for that hazardous substance as follows:

– –Estimate the K_d range for the hazardous substance using the following equation:

$$K_d=(K_{oc})(f_s)$$

where:

K_{oc}=Soil-water partition coefficient for organic carbon for the hazardous substance.

f_s=Sorbent content (fraction of clays plus organic carbon) in the subsurface.

– –Use f_s values of 0.03 and 0.77 in the above equation to establish the upper and lower values of the K_d range for the hazardous substance.

– –Calculate the geometric mean of the upper and lower K_d range values. Use this geometric mean as the distribution coefficient in assigning the hazardous substance a mobility factor value from Table 3–8.

3.2.1.3 *Calculation of toxicity/mobility factor value.* Assign each hazardous substance a toxicity/mobility factor value from Table 3–9, based on the values assigned to the hazardous substance for the toxicity and mobility factors. Use the hazardous substance with the highest toxicity/mobility factor value for the aquifer being evaluated to assign the value to the toxicity/mobility factor for that aquifer. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

TABLE 3–9.—TOXICITY/MOBILITY FACTOR VALUES [a]

Mobility factor value	Toxicity factor value					
	10,000	1,000	100	10	1	0
1.0	10,000	1,000	100	10	1	0
0.2	2,000	200	20	2	0.2	0
0.01	100	10	1	0.1	0.01	0
0.002	20	2	0.2	0.02	0.002	0
0.0001	1	0.1	0.01	0.001	1×10^{-4}	0
2×10^{-5}	0.2	0.02	0.002	2×10^{-4}	2×10^{-5}	0
2×10^{-7}	0.002	2×10^{-4}	2×10^{-5}	2×10^{-6}	2×10^{-7}	0
2×10^{-9}	2×10^{-5}	2×10^{-6}	2×10^{-7}	2×10^{-8}	2×10^{-9}	0

[a] Do not round to nearest integer.

3.2.2 *Hazardous waste quantity.* Assign a hazardous waste quantity factor value for the ground water pathway (or aquifer) as specified in section 2.4.2. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

3.2.3 *Calculation of waste characteristics factor category value.* Multiply the toxicity/mobility and hazardous waste quantity factor values, subject to a maximum product of 1×10^8. Based on this product, assign a value from Table 2–7 (section 2.4.3.1) to the waste characteristics factor category. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

3.3 *Targets.* Evaluate the targets factor category for an aquifer based on four factors: nearest well, population, resources, and Wellhead Protection Area. Evaluate these four factors based on targets within the target distance limit specified in section 3.0.1.1 and the aquifer boundaries specified in section 3.0.1.2. Determine the targets to be included in evaluating these factors for an aquifer as specified in section 3.0.

3.3.1 *Nearest well.* In evaluating the nearest well factor, include both the drinking water wells drawing from the aquifer being evaluated and those drawing from overlying aquifers as specified in section 3.0. Include standby wells in evaluating this factor only if they are used for drinking water supply at least once every year.

If there is an observed release by direct observation for a drinking water well within the target distance limit, assign Level II concentrations to that well. However, if one or more samples meet the criteria for an observed release for that well, determine if that well is subject to Level I or Level II concentrations as specified in sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2. Use the health-based benchmarks from Table 3–10 in determining the level of contamination.

Assign a value for the nearest well factor as follows:

• If one or more drinking water wells is subject to Level I concentrations, assign a value of 50.

• If not, but if one or more drinking water wells is subject to Level II concentrations, assign a value of 45.

• If none of the drinking water wells is subject to Level I or Level II concentrations, assign a value as follows:

–If one of the target aquifers is a karst aquifer that underlies any portion of the sources at the site and any well draws drinking water from this karst aquifer within the target distance limit, assign a value of 20.

–If not, determine the shortest distance to any drinking water well, as measured from any source at the site with a ground water containment factor value greater than 0. Select a value from Table 3–11 based on this distance. Assign it as the value for the nearest well factor.

Enter the value assigned to the nearest well factor in Table 3–1.

TABLE 3–10.—HEALTH-BASED BENCHMARKS FOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN DRINKING WATER

• Concentration corresponding to Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).
• Concentration corresponding to a nonzero Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG).
• Screening concentration for cancer corresponding to that concentration that corresponds to the 10^{-6} individual cancer risk for oral exposures.
• Screening concentration for noncancer toxicological responses corresponding to the Reference Dose (RfD) for oral exposures.

TABLE 3–11.—NEAREST WELL FACTOR VALUES

Distance from source (miles)	Assigned value
Level I concentrations[a]	50
Level II concentrations[a]	45
0 to ¼	20
Greater than ¼ to ½	18
Greater than ½ to 1	9
Greater than 1 to 2	5
Greater than 2 to 3	3
Greater than 3 to 4	2
Greater than 4	0

[a] Distance does not apply.

3.3.2 *Population.* In evaluating the population factor, include those persons served by drinking water wells within the target distance limit specified in section 3.0.1.1. For the aquifer being evaluated, count those persons served by wells in that aquifer and those persons served by wells in overlying aquifers as specified in section 3.0. Include residents, students, and workers who regularly use the water. Exclude transient populations such as customers and travelers passing through the area. Evaluate the population based on the location of the water supply wells, not on the location of residences, work places, etc. When a standby well is maintained on a regular basis so that water can be withdrawn, include it in evaluating the population factor.

In estimating residential population, when the estimate is based on the number of residences, multiply each residence by the average number of persons per residence for the county in which the residence is located.

In determining the population served by a well, if the water from the well is blended with other water (for example, water from other ground water wells or surface water intakes), apportion the total population regularly served by the blended system to the well based on the well's relative contribution to the total blended system. In estimating the well's relative contribution, assume each well and intake contributes equally and apportion the population accordingly, except: if the relative contribution of any one well or intake exceeds 40 percent based on average annual pumpage or capacity, estimate the relative contribution of the wells and intakes considering the following data, if available:

• Average annual pumpage from the ground water wells and surface water intakes in the blended system.

• Capacities of the wells and intakes in the blended system.

For systems with standby ground water wells or standby surface water intakes, apportion the total population regularly served by the blended system as described above, except:

• Exclude standby surface water intakes in apportioning the population.

• When using pumpage data for a standby ground water well, use average pumpage for the period during which the standby well is used rather than average annual pumpage.

• For that portion of the total population that could be apportioned to a standby ground water well, assign that portion of the population either to that standby well or to the other ground water well(s) and surface water intake(s) that serve that population; do not assign that portion of the population both to the standby well and to the other well(s) and intake(s) in the blended system. Use the apportioning that results in the highest population factor value. (Either include all standby well(s) or exclude some or all of the standby well(s) as appropriate to obtain this highest value.) Note that the specific standby well(s) included or excluded and, thus, the specific apportioning may vary in evaluating different aquifers and in evaluating the surface water pathway.

3.3.2.1 *Level of contamination.* Evaluate the population served by water from a point of withdrawal based on the level of contamination for that point of withdrawal. Use the applicable factor: Level I concentrations, Level II concentrations, or potential contamination.

If no samples meet the criteria for an observed release for a point of withdrawal and there is no observed release by direct observation for that point of withdrawal, evaluate that point of withdrawal using the potential contamination factor in section 3.3.2.4. If there is an observed release by direct observation, use Level II concentrations for that point of withdrawal. However, if one or more samples meet the criteria for an observed release for the point of withdrawal, determine which factor (Level I or Level II concentrations) applies to that point of withdrawal as specified in sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2. Use the health-based benchmarks from Table 3–10 in determining the level of contamination. Evaluate the point of withdrawal using the Level I concentrations factor in section 3.3.2.2 or the Level II concentrations factor in section 3.3.2.3, as appropriate.

For the potential contamination factor, use population ranges in evaluating the factor as specified in section 3.3.2.4. For the Level I and Level II concentrations factors, use the population estimate, not population ranges, in evaluating both factors.

3.3.2.2 *Level I concentrations.* Sum the number of people served by drinking water from points of withdrawal subject to Level I concentrations. Multiply this sum by 10. Assign this product as the value for this factor. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

3.3.2.3 *Level II concentrations.* Sum the number of people served by drinking water from points of withdrawal subject to Level II concentrations. Do not include those people already counted under the Level I concentrations factor. Assign this sum as the value for this factor. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

3.3.2.4 *Potential contamination.* Determine the number of people served by drinking water from points of withdrawal subject to potential contamination. Do not include those people already counted under the Level I and Level II concentrations factors.

Assign distance-weighted population values from Table 3–12 to this population as follows:

• Use the "Karst" portion of Table 3–12 to assign values only for that portion of the population served by points of withdrawal that draw drinking water from a karst aquifer that underlies any portion of the sources at the site.

–For this portion of the population, determine the number of people included within each "Karst" distance category in Table 3–12.

TABLE 3-12.—DISTANCE-WEIGHTED POPULATION VALUES FOR POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION FACTOR FOR GROUND WATER MIGRATION PATHWAY [a]

Distance category (miles)	Number of people within the distance category												
	0	1 to 10	11 to 30	31 to 100	101 to 300	301 to 1,000	1,001 to 3,000	3,001 to 10,000	10,001 to 30,000	30,001 to 100,000	100,001 to 300,000	300,001 to 1,000,000	1,000,001 to 3,000,000
Other Than Karst [b]:													
0 to ¼	0	4	17	53	164	522	1,633	5,214	16,325	52,137	163,246	521,360	1,632,455
Greater than ¼ to ½	0	2	11	33	102	324	1,013	3,233	10,122	32,325	101,213	323,243	1,012,122
Greater than ½ to 1	0	1	5	17	52	167	523	1,669	5,224	16,684	52,239	166,835	522,385
Greater than 1 to 2	0	0.7	3	10	30	94	294	939	2,939	9,385	29,364	93,845	293,842
Greater than 2 to 3	0	0.5	2	7	21	68	212	678	2,122	6,778	21,222	67,777	212,219
Greater than 3 to 4	0	0.3	1	4	13	42	131	417	1,306	4,171	13,060	41,709	130,596
Karst [c]:													
0 to ¼	0	4	17	53	164	522	1,633	5,214	16,325	52,137	163,246	521,360	1,632,455
Greater than ¼ to ½	0	2	11	33	102	324	1,013	3,233	10,122	32,325	101,213	323,243	1,012,122
Greater than ½ to 1	0	2	9	26	82	261	817	2,607	8,163	26,068	81,623	260,680	816,227
Greater than 1 to 2	0	2	9	26	82	261	817	2,607	8,163	26,068	81,623	260,680	816,227
Greater than 2 to 3	0	2	9	26	82	261	817	2,607	8,163	26,068	81,623	260,680	816,227
Greater than 3 to 4	0	2	9	26	82	261	817	2,607	8,163	26,068	81,623	260,680	816,227

[a] Round the number of people present within a distance category to nearest integer. Do not round the assigned distance-weighted population value to nearest integer.
[b] Use for all aquifers, except karst aquifers underlying any portion of the sources at the site.
[c] Use only for karst aquifers underlying any portion of the sources at the site.

–Assign a distance-weighted population value for each distance category based on the number of people included within the distance category.

• Use the "Other Than Karst" portion of Table 3–12 for the remainder of the population served by points of withdrawal subject to potential contamination.

–For this portion of the population, determine the number of people included within each "Other Than Karst" distance category in Table 3–12.

–Assign a distance-weighted population value for each distance category based on the number of people included within the distance category.

Calculate the value for the potential contamination factor (PC) as follows:

$$PC = \frac{1}{10} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (W_i + K_i)$$

where:

W_i=Distance-weighted population from "Other Than Karst" portion of Table 3–12 for distance category i.

K_i=Distance-weighted population from "Karst" portion of Table 3–12 for distance category i.

n=Number of distance categories.

If PC is less than 1, do not round it to the nearest integer; if PC is 1 or more, round to the nearest integer. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

3.3.2.5 *Calculation of population factor value.* Sum the factor values for Level I concentrations, Level II concentrations, and potential contamination. Do not round this sum to the nearest integer. Assign this sum as the population factor value for the aquifer. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

3.3.3 *Resources.* To evaluate the resources factor, select the highest value specified below that applies for the aquifer being evaluated. Assign this value as the resources factor value for the aquifer. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

Assign a resources value of 5 if water drawn from any target well for the aquifer being evaluated or overlying aquifers (as specified in section 3.0) is used for one or more of the following purposes:

• Irrigation (5-acre minimum) of commercial food crops or commercial forage crops.

• Watering of commercial livestock.

• Ingredient in commercial food preparation.

• Supply for commercial aquaculture.

• Supply for a major or designated water recreation area, excluding drinking water use.

Assign a resources value of 5 if no drinking water wells are within the target distance limit, but the water in the aquifer being evaluated or any overlying aquifers (as specified in section 3.0) is usable for drinking water purposes.

Assign a resources value of 0 if none of the above applies.

3.3.4 *Wellhead Protection Area.* Evaluate the Wellhead Protection Area factor based on Wellhead Protection Areas designated according to section 1428 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended. Consider only those Wellhead Protection Areas applicable to the aquifer being evaluated or overlying aquifers (as specified in section 3.0). Select the highest value below that applies. Assign it as the value for the Wellhead Protection Area factor for the aquifer being evaluated. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

Assign a value of 20 if either of the following criteria applies for the aquifer being evaluated or overlying aquifers:

• A source with a ground water containment factor value greater than 0 lies, either partially or fully, within or above the designated Wellhead Protection Area.

• Observed ground water contamination attributable to the sources at the site lies, either partially or fully, within the designated Wellhead Protection Area.

If neither criterion applies, assign a value of 5, if, within the target distance limit, there is a designated Wellhead Protection Area applicable to the aquifer being evaluated or overlying aquifers.

Assign a value of 0 if none of the above applies.

3.3.5 *Calculation of targets factor category value.* Sum the factor values for nearest well, population, resources, and Wellhead Protection Area. Do not round this sum to the nearest integer. Use this sum as the targets factor category value for the aquifer. Enter this value in Table 3–1.

3.4 *Ground water migration score for an aquifer.* For the aquifer being evaluated, multiply the factor category values for likelihood of release, waste characteristics, and targets, and round the product to the nearest integer. Then divide by 82,500. Assign the resulting value, subject to a maximum value of 100, as the ground water migration pathway score for the aquifer. Enter this score in Table 3–1.

3.5 *Calculation of ground water migration pathway score.* Calculate a ground water migration score for each aquifer underlying the sources at the site, as appropriate. Assign the highest ground water migration score for an aquifer as the ground water migration pathway score (S_{gw}) for the site. Enter this score in Table 3–1.

4.0 *Surface Water Migration Pathway.*

4.0.1 *Migration components.* Evaluate the surface water migration pathway based on two migration components:

• Overland/flood migration to surface water (see section 4.1).

• Ground water to surface water migration (see section 4.2).

Evaluate each component based on the same three threats: drinking water threat, human food chain threat, and environmental threat.

Score one or both components, considering their relative importance. If only one component is scored, assign its score as the surface water migration pathway score. If